



Government Affairs

The Government Affairs Committee would like to reprint the following press releases as reminders to ICI Members about the importance of safety in the workplace...

\$104K in OSHA Penalties Proposed for PCC Structural-Groton

Employees at PCC Structurals-Groton faced the risk of chemical burns, fire, lacerations, amputations, electric shock and other injuries, inspections by the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration have found.

"Our inspections identified a disturbing cross-section of hazards that could result in eye, face or body injuries, burns, or hearing loss for employees at the Groton location, as well as potential fires or explosions. It's imperative for the health and well-being of its employees that PCC Structurals takes comprehensive, effective and ongoing corrective action to eliminate these hazards," said Warren Simpson, OSHA's area director in Hartford.

Located at 839 Poquonnock Road, the Groton facility is a steel-investment casting foundry that casts components for aerospace, energy, and commercial applications. Among the hazards identified during OSHA's inspections:

- Lack of hand, face and body protection for employees working on or near electrical equipment.
- Exposed live electrical parts; misused electrical equipment and power cords; inadequate working space around electrical panelboards; and an ungrounded extension cord.
- Unguarded points of operation of hydraulic presses.
- Failure to inspect energy control procedures periodically to prevent the unintended startup of machinery during maintenance and cleaning.
- No program to inspect chain alloy slings used to lift materials and equipment.
- Lack of emergency eyewashes where employees worked with corrosive chemicals.
- Inadequate safety glasses for employees working with chemicals.
- Inadequately labeled containers of hazardous chemicals.
- Flammable liquids not stored in closed containers; improper disposal of combustible waste.
- Unsecured compressed gas cylinders.
- Incompatible chemicals stored together in a cabinet.
- Employees exposed to high noise levels not provided with a choice of hearing protection.

As a result of these conditions, OSHA cited the company for 20 serious violations of workplace safety and health standards on Feb. 19, 2016, with proposed penalties of \$90,000. OSHA earlier cited the facility on Jan. 5 for two serious violations concerning inadequate fall protection equipment and an unprotected table saw. Fines of \$14,000 were proposed for those violations.

To ask questions, obtain compliance assistance, file a complaint, or report amputations, eye loss, workplace hospitalizations, fatalities or situations posing imminent danger to workers, the public should call OSHA's toll-free hotline at 800-321-OSHA (6742) or the agency's Hartford office at 860-240-3152.

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OSHA Investigating Fatal Fall at GM

The Toledo office of the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration is investigating the death of Terry Bodenbender, a 50-year-old electrician, at General Motors Defiance Casting Operations.

According to OSHA, Bodenbender was performing maintenance and troubleshooting on an overhead crane, when he fell approximately 25-30 feet into a pit below suffering fatal injuries. An investigator with OSHA was at General Motors was at the scene for several days.

OSHA has up to six months to complete its investigation and release any warranted citations, according to an official.

OSHA's investigation will include gathering evidence, interviewing employees, and reviewing relevant company records and documents. OSHA may issue citations and penalties if the agency finds violations of OSHA standards or law. Falls are one of the leading causes of death in the workplace. OSHA has a campaign to teach employers and workers about fall prevention.

OSHA Investigating Death at Missouri Foundry

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration office in Kansas City is investigating the death of a maintenance worker on the job at a Warrensburg foundry.

OSHA says initial reports indicate the worker, whose identity hasn't been released, was troubleshooting a machine at Stahl Specialty Company on Monday when it engaged and fatally struck him.

The agency is looking into whether the machine was locked out to prevent operation at the time of the incident.

Stahl Specialty is based in Kingsville, where it also operates a second foundry. It was cited in January for one serious violation after a worker suffered an amputation injury at the Warrensburg plant two months earlier.

Worker Killed at Foundry

Authorities say a man was killed after a molding machine somehow turned on while he was working inside it at a central Pennsylvania foundry.

LNP newspaper (<http://bit.ly/20TtQVf>) reports that the victim was working inside a sand mixer at the Buck Company in Quarryville in Lancaster County when the machine turned on shortly before 1:30 p.m.

Rawlinsville Fire Chief Carl Strickler Jr. says the man's leg got caught inside the machine. Firefighters pulled him from the equipment and a medical unit at the factory provided care before he was rushed to Lancaster General Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

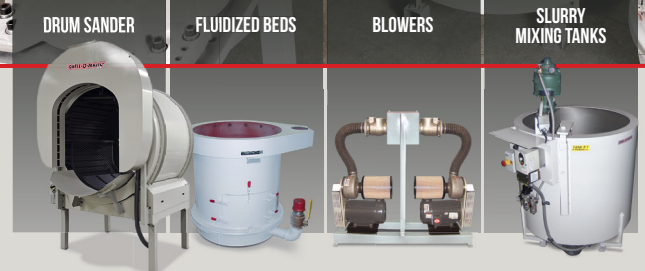
The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration is investigating. The company declined comment, citing the investigation, but said officials' "thoughts and prayers" were with the victim's family, friends and co-workers.

Full press releases may be found on the OSHA website: www.osha.gov

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